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## TALMAGE'S SERMON.

### PRINTER'S INK THE SUBJECT LAST SUNDAY.

Good Influence of Newspapers and Books—The Public Conscience Is Easily Awakened—Letter-Writing a Good Habit for the Young.

(Copyright, 1901, by Louis Klopsch, N. Y.) Washington, March 17.—In a new way and from a peculiar text Dr. Talmage discourses of good influences brought to bear for the world's improvement. The text is Ezekiel ix. 2, "And one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side."

The poem from which my text is taken is epic, lyric, dramatic, weird and overpowering. It is more than Homeric or Dantesque. No one ever had such divine dreams as Ezekiel. In a vision this prophet had seen wrathful angels, destroying angels, each with a sword, but in my text he sees a merciful angel with an inkhorn. The receptacle for the ink in olden time was made out of the horn of a cow or a ram or a roebuck, as now it is made out of metal or glass, and therefore was called the inkhorn, as now we say inkstand. We have all spoken of the power of the sword, of the power of wealth, of the power of office, of the power of social influence, but today I speak of the power for good or evil in the inkstand. It is upon your tables, holding a black or blue or red liquid. It is a fortress, an armory, a gateway, a ransom or a demolition. "You mistake," says some one; "it is the pen that has the power." No, my friend. What is the influence of a dry pen? Pass it up and down a sheet of paper, and it leaves no mark. It expresses no opinion. It gives no warning. It spreads no intelligence. It is the liquid which the pen dips out of the inkstand that does the work. Here and there a celebrated pen, with which a Declaration of Independence or a Magna Charta or a treaty was signed has been kept in literary museum or national archives, but for the most part the pens, whether, as of old, made out of reed or later of wing of bird or still later of metallic substance, have disappeared, while the liquid which the pens took from the inkstand remains in scrolls which, if put together, would be large enough to enwrap the round world. For practical, for moral, for religious, for eternal purposes, I speak of the mission of "the writer's inkhorn."

#### Writing to Old Folks at Home.

O ye who have with recent years set up homes of your own, out of the new home inkstand write often to the old folks, if they be still living! A letter means more to them than to us, who are amid the activities of life and to whom postal correspondence is more than we can manage. They await the coming of the letter. Undertake no great thing in life without their advice. Old people for counsel: young people for action. Even though through decadence they may be incompetent to give valuable opinions on important affairs, compliment them by asking their counsel. It will do them good. It will make their last days exhilarant. Make that home inkstand a source of rejuvenescence to those who are near the terminus of the earthly journey. Domestic correspondence is not attended to at once. The newspaper, joining with the telegraph, bears the tidings of all the neighborhood, but swiftest revolving wheel of modern printing press and quickest flash along the electric wires can never do the sympathetic work of the home inkstand. As the merciful angel of my text appeared before the brazen altar with the inkhorn at his side in Ezekiel's vision, so let the angel of filial kindness appear at the altars of the old homestead.

#### The Author's Responsibilities.

Furthermore, the inkstand of the business man has its mission. Between now and the hour of your demise, O commercial man, O professional man, there will not be a day when you can not dip from the inkhorn a message that will influence temporal and eternal destiny. There is a rash young man running into wild speculation, and with as much ink as you can put on the pen at one time you may save him from the Niagara rapids of a ruined life. On the next street there is a young man started in business who, through lack of patronage or mistake in purchase of goods or want of adaptation, is on the brink of collapse. One line of ink from your pen will save him from being an underling all his life and start him on a career that will win him a fortune which will enable him to become an endower of libraries, an opener of art galleries and builder of churches.

Furthermore, great are the responsibilities of the author's inkhorn. All the people, or nearly all the people, read, and that which they read decides their morals or immorals, their prosperity or failure, their faith or their unbelief, their purity or corruption, their heaven or hell. Show me any man's library, great or small, and after examining the books, finding those with leaves uncut, but displayed for

sake of the binding, and those worn with frequent perusal, and without ever seeing the man or knowing his name, I will tell you his likes and his dislikes; his morals, good or bad or indifferent; his qualifications for business or artistic or professional or mechanical life. The best index to any man's character is the book he prefers above all others. Oh, the power of a book for good or evil!

#### The Influence of Books.

Through books we sit down and talk with the mightiest spirits of all the ages. We accompany Tennyson on his spring-time walk as he falls upon his knees in the meadows, crying to his companion: "Violets, man, violets! Smell them." Or we ride with Trajan in his triumphal march, or stand with Godfrey at the taking of Jerusalem, or with arctic explorer hear the crash of the icebergs, or are received with Hernando Cortes in the halls of Montezuma, or watch in the observatory as Herschel with his telescope captures another star, or the ink in the inkhorn turns red as blood, and we are at Marengo and Arbelia, and Eylau and Borodino and Leipzig; or we sail with Hamilcar from Carthage to Palermo, or we see Galilee fighting for the solar system, and around us gather for conversation Aristotle and Plato and Robert South and Sydney Smith and Locke and Samuel Rogers and Chaucer and Paul Richter and Swift and Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt and Talleyrand and Burke and Edward Irving, while, to make music for us, Handel and Mozart and Mendelssohn come in, and we watch Columbus landing, and see John Harvard's legacy of £300 paid over for the founding of Harvard university, and Joshua Reynolds and David Wilkie and Rembrandt tell us of their pictures. Oh, the books! Thank God for the books, and thanks be to all the authors! May the inkhorn ever be under divine inspiration!

When a bad book is printed you do well to blame the publisher, but most of all blame the author. The malaria rose from his inkstand. The poison that caused the moral or spiritual death dropped in the fluid from the tip of his pen. The manufacturer of that ink could tell you that it is made of tannin and salt of iron and nutgalls and green vitriol, but many an author has dipped from his inkstand hypercriticism and malevolence and slander and salaciousness as from a fountain of death. But blessed be God for the author's inkstand in 10,000 studies which are dedicated to pure intelligence, highest inspiration and grandest purpose. They are the inkstands out of which will be dipped the redemption of the world. The destroying angels with their swords seen in Ezekiel's vision will be finally overcome by the merciful angel with the writer's inkhorn.

#### Newspaper Impressions.

A wrong theory is abroad that the newspaper impression is ephemeral. Because we read and cast it aside in an hour and never see it again we are not to judge that we are parted from its influence. No volume of 500 pages makes such impression upon the people as the daily newspaper. It is not what we put away carefully upon the shelf and once in awhile refer to that has as close relation to our welfare as the story of what the world is now doing or has recently done. Yesterday has more to do with today than something occurring a century previous. The engineers who now guide the rail trains, the captains who now command the ships, the architects who now design the buildings, the batons that now control the orchestras, the legislators who now make the laws, the generals who now march the hosts, the rulers who now govern the nations, the inkhorns that now flood the world with intelligence—these are what we have most to do with.

You have all seen what is called indelible ink, which is a weak solution of silver nitrate, and that ink you can not rub out or wash out. Put it there, and it stays. Well, the liquid of the editorial and reportorial inkstands is an indelible ink. It puts upon the souls of the passing generations characters of light or darkness that time cannot wash out and eternity cannot efface. Forever indelible. Be careful how you use it. The impression made with it will be resplendent or repulsive on the day for which all other days were made.

But how shall I speak of the inkhorn of the world's evangelization? Oh, how many loving and brilliant and glorious pens have been dipped into it! Thomas a Kempis dipped into it and brought up his "Imitation of Christ." Horace Bushnell dipped into it and brought up "Every Man's Life a Plan of God." Thomas Binney dipped into it and brought up his "Weigh House Chapel Discourses." Conybeare dipped into it and brought up the "Life and Epistles of Paul." Archbishop Trench dipped into it and brought up the "Epistles to the Seven Churches." Stuart Robinson dipped into it and brought up "Discourses of Redemption." Austin Phelps dipped into it and brought up "The Still Hour." Mark Hopkins dipped into it and brought up "Evidence of Christianity." Thomas Guthrie dipped into it and brought up "The Gospel in Ezekiel." John Cunningham dipped into it and brought up "The Apocalypse." Oh, the opulence

of Christian literature! Oh, the mighty streams of evangelistic power that have poured from the writer's inkhorn that appeared in Ezekiel's vision!

#### The Mothers' Letters.

While you recognize the distinguished ones who have dipped into the inkstand of the world's evangelization do not forget that there are hundreds of thousands of unknown men and women who are engaged in inconspicuous ways doing the same thing! How many anxious mothers writing to the boys in town! How many sisters writing encouragement to brothers far away! How many invalids bolstered up in bed, the inkhorn on the stand at their side, writing letters of condolence to those worse off than themselves! They are flying all the time kind words, gospel words, helpful words, saving words. Call the evangelistic inkhorn into service in the early morning, when you feel well and you are grateful for the protection during your sleeping hours, and write before you retire at close of day to those who all night long will be saying, "Would to God it were morning!" How many bruised and disappointed and wronged souls of earth would be glad to get a letter from you! Stir up that consolatory inkhorn.

#### The Inkhorn of God's Mercy.

The other angels spoken of in my text were destroying angels, and each had what the Bible calls a "slaughter weapon" in his hand. It was a lance or a battle-axe or a sword. God hasten the time when the last lance shall be shattered and the last battle-axe dulled and the last sword sheathed, never again to leave the scabbard, and the angel of the text, who, Matthew Henry says, was the Lord Jesus Christ, shall, from the full inkhorn of his mercy, give a saving call to all nations. That day may be far off, but it is helpful to think of its coming. As Dr. Raleigh declared, that when 50 miles at sea off the coast of New England the cattle on board the ship, as well as himself, scented the clover on the New England hills, so we, amid all the tossing waves of the world's controversies, inhale the redolence of the white lilies of universal peace. Is it not time that the boasted invention of new and more explosive and more widely devastating weapons of death be stopped forever, and the gospel have a chance and the question be not asked, How many shots can be fired in a minute? but, How many souls may be ransomed in a day? The world needs less powder and more grace, fewer fortresses and more churches, less power to destroy and more power to save. Oh, I am sick of the war cries and the extinguished eyesight and the splintered bones and the grave trenches and the widowhood and orphanage and childlessness which sob and groan and die in the wake of the armies on both sides of the sea! Oh, for less of the slaughter weapon and more of the evangelizing inkhorn! Oh, for the stopping of the science of assassination, that crime of crimes, that woe of woes, that horror of horrors, that hell of hells—war, which this moment stands reeking with blood and washing itself in tears and blaspheming the heavens and pushing off the edge of this life men who have as much right to live as you and I have, and blasting homes in which there dwells as much loveliness as in our own! Would that the merciful angel of my text take the last weapon of war and fling it off and fling it down with such force that it shall clang on the lowest round of the perdition where the first keen edge of human strife was sharpened! War! In the name of Almighty God and of all the homesteads it has destroyed and is now destroying, I hate it, I denounce it, I curse it!

#### New Kind of Phonograph.

At the last meeting of the Berlin Polytechnic society an engineer named Leisner explained a new kind of phonograph for service at sea, writes a Berlin correspondent. By coupling together membranes, between each of which a microphone is fixed, he has succeeded in so strengthening the tone emitted by all sound that any noise can be heard for a distance of three sea miles. It is suggested that by means of this invention a commander at sea will be able to issue his orders to all the ships in his fleet, and that in the same manner ships will be able to communicate with each other in the densest fog. Of course, it would be equally useful on land, and railway accidents, it is thought, may be also greatly diminished, as warnings could be given at long distances apart.

#### From Judge to Constable.

Daniel R. Magruder, former judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, is a constable at Annapolis. To the protest of the citizens that constables had not been appointed the board in charge of the matter replied that men could not be found to accept the office. When Judge Magruder stated that plenty of good men could be found it was suggested in banter that the judge should accept, and he did.

Those who are industrious in any calling are capable of further blessings, whereas the idle are fit for nothing but temptation.

## FARM AND GARDEN.

### MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

#### The Work of the Harrow.

There is no farm tool that occupies a larger place in the work of the farmer than does the harrow. Its popularity has grown as agricultural knowledge has increased. It is now used oftener and in more places than ever before. A generation ago each farmer thought one harrow sufficient for all his needs; but now the scientific agriculturist feels that he can invest in several will do perfect work under almost any conditions likely to arise on the farm and on any soils.

Year by year the farmer is coming to understand better that he must make war on the clod. The plow creates it; the harrow alone can destroy it. In it is locked up the plant food that should make a part of his revenue. The clod resists the roots of the plants and they run around it. If it lies on top of the ground it dries out and the humus in it is destroyed to the extent of its exposure to heat. Whether in the soil or above it, the clod, like a stone, occupies valuable room. If it lies above the ground it shuts off light from the soil under it. If it is in the soil it lies in that part (near the surface) where the root is most needed for the development of roots. On heavy soil clods often occupy a very large percentage of the ground, both on the surface and under it. This is equivalent to putting that amount of ground out of cultivation, which means, in turn, a proportionate decrease of the crop.

There is only one way of getting rid of these clods, and that is by use of the harrow. By this implement the clods are pulverized on the surface and for two or three inches in the ground. The feeding area is thus increased, and the ground brought into a condition where it can be used as a starting bed for the tender shoots first sent out by the seeds. Insufficient harrowing is often the cause of great loss in the crops. Where the ground is inclined to be lumpy and the harrowing has been only imperfectly done, the air is admitted to the ground in all directions and through spaces so large that the moisture is dried out of a considerable portion of the soil. This drying out renders it exceedingly difficult for the seeds to get a foundation in which to develop their shoots. Many instances of this kind might be cited. In one case in the mind of the writer a sod had been turned over for corn. The harrowing was so imperfectly done that whole furrows of the turned sod were separated from the subsoil to an extent that permitted the air to move through and under them and dry out the earth. The season was dry, or rains might have washed down enough soil to fill up the open spaces. As it was, the corn crop proved to be a failure, except where the kernels of corn fell into the bottoms of the furrows. Elsewhere, the kernels sprouted and sent up feeble stalks, which never obtained enough moisture to reach maturity or form ears. By sufficient harrowing the soil would have been pulverized sufficiently to establish the action of capillary water throughout and the whole corn crop would have been fed. Doubtless the farmer in the instance mentioned lost enough money on this one crop to have purchased a good many harrows.

The harrow is the enemy of weeds and the most potent factor in destroying them. Before even the top of the tiny weed gets to the surface of the ground the harrow goes over them, if the harrower is on the alert, and they are destroyed. Their tender rootlets, which were just getting fixed in the soil, are loosened, and, being near the surface, are dried out before they can re-establish themselves. The form of harrow that we call a "weeder" will often be found of immense value in the destruction of weeds, as it can be used when the corn crop or potato crop is well up, and in such case it will keep down the weeds without injuring the crop that is being grown. This is because its teeth go far enough into the soil to turn out the newly started weeds, but do not go down to the roots of the potato or corn plants.

Some of our best orchardists, as well as our general farmers, are using weeder extensively. The writer was in the peach orchard of Mr. Morrill of Benton Harbor, Mich., and was forcibly struck with the extensive use being made of weeder there. These implements were being so extensively used that the ground throughout all the peach orchard was as bare of weeds as a floor. Mr. Morrill said to a party of friends present, "Here is a good place for some of you to make money. Go through my orchard and pull up and bring to me every weed you find; I will give you a dollar apiece for them." That was what the use of the weeder accomplished there. The moisture and the plant food in that or-

chard were not used for the feeding of weeds, but for the development of peaches.

Every form of harrow has its place on the farm, and no farmer can afford not to have enough implements of this kind to enable him to do the very best work.

#### New Blackberry Culture.

R. M. Kellogg, in his pamphlet, "Great Crops of Small Fruits," says: "Nothing sells better, nothing pays better, nothing is grown more easily than blackberries. The new method of starting the plantation produces double that of the old way. Its fruit is more luscious and a plantation will fruit heavily under good culture and pruning from fifteen to twenty years, giving annually large crops. The demand for this fruit is practically unlimited. The trouble is blackberries are offered as sour, seedy, and lack flavor. Scarcely a town in the country is supplied at all with large luscious blackberries."

How it is Done.—Pursue the same method explained in breeding up strawberries. Find all the ideal canes bearing the finest fruit and not over two years old. Early in the fall dig them up and cut roots in pieces about three inches long and pack in boxes of clean, coarse, sharp sand and place in a cold cellar regulated with ice so the thermometer will stand at 35 degrees. An ordinary cellar will not do, for if allowed to get too warm the cuttings will commence to grow and all be spoiled. If allowed to freeze they will not callus and thus fail to emit sufficient roots.

What is a Callus?—It is a law of nature that when a root is cut or injured the plant will repair the damage by sending out new roots, but no new roots will start until a callus is formed. Certain wood cells and a gristle-like substance must form, and out of this callus the roots start. The process requires time and goes on at a low temperature and the longer the root is kept in this dormant condition the more calluses there will be.

Roots prepared in October form calluses in great numbers before planting time the following May, when the cuttings are placed in nursery rows in rich, moist, sandy soil about three inches apart and one and a half deep. It is quite difficult to make them grow properly without irrigation. If the roots get dry they will fall. If buried too deep they damp off and die. Low, springy or cold ground will not do. They must have frequent cultivation and not a weed allowed to grow among them. As soon as dormant in the fall, the plants are carefully taken up and roots trimmed to the proper length and again packed in coarse, sharp sand so it is solid around every root and kept as in the first winter, when calluses form all along the sides and ends of roots so that when planted out where they are to fruit in the spring myriads of roots will start at one time and at the end of the season the ground will be full of fine feeding roots as above described. In keeping them in the callusing cellar it should be supplied with ice, for if perchance the cellar gets too warm the plants will grow and be lost.

The common way is, as in the case of raspberries, to let a patch fruit as long as it will and then mow off the tops and let suckers come up from between the rows and the next season to dig them up to start a new patch. Of course the weakness and exhaustion of the old patch is carried into the new. The roots on the plant are few and commence growing all ways from the end, and I have seen them extend several rods away, while near the canes the ground would not be occupied at all. The sap having to come through these long roots to the leaves for assimilation they are continuously sending up suckers which become a nuisance.

#### Horticultural Observations.

Onions are easily grown where the proper methods are used. The ground must be very rich, as growth to maturity should be rapid. The land must be thoroughly pulverized and afterward kept free from weeds. Sow the seed in rows eighteen inches apart and cover to a depth of one-half an inch if the soil is fine and compact. When the plants are well up, thin to three to five inches apart. Some advanced culturists follow the plan of replanting all their onions, selecting for that purpose only those that show great vigor.

For watermelons the land should be thoroughly pulverized and well manured. Plant the seeds as soon as the danger of frosts is over. One of the common ways of planting is to check off the ground eight feet each way, dropping three or four seeds in the center of each check. When the plants have made a good growth and passed the critical periods of early growth they should be thinned to two vines to a hill. Keep the ground clear of weeds till the vines spread too much to permit of cultivation. For muskmelons prepare the ground the same as for watermelons, but make the squares in which they are planted four feet each way.

There are about 30,000,000 acres of unoccupied public land yet remaining in Montana.

#### The Shyster and the Law.

There are various methods by which the unscrupulous fakirs who infest the produce trade succeed in swindling country shippers and still keep themselves out of the clutches of the law, says the New York Produce Review. The old way was to get up attractive and often expensive and high-toned stationery, posing as commission merchants, quoting prices for produce higher than could be obtained, and guaranteeing phenomenal results based upon claims of exceptional facilities. Prompt returns would be made for the first few shipments, then there would come great praise of the goods, and calls for larger quantities; then slower returns until enough goods were in the hands of the frauds to make a good sized haul; then a general selling out, pocketing the proceeds and a fly by night to other fields where the same operation would be gone through under another name.

But this was risky business because the laws referring to commission sales are likely to be effective and failure to make proper return may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and perhaps imprisonment. The new way is safer. The shinder does not pose as a commission merchant but simply offers to buy produce either on track at shipping station or delivered in the city where he locates. He quotes high prices, cash payment, "no commission" and, as a bait to get goods, generally says "why pay commission for selling your goods when you can sell them to us for the highest market prices without any deduction except for freight?"

This is attractive bait and there are usually many to bite the hook. A trial shipment is made, and back come the returns as prompt and as satisfactory as possible. Other shipments may be paid for promptly also and as soon as the shipper's misplaced confidence is won he is entreated to make larger shipments. Then payment begins to fall behind, but excuses are made until the indebtedness is as large as possible; perhaps notes are given to coax along further shipments, but before the notes become due the house fails.

Now as this scheme is worked on a large number of shippers at once—as many as can be caught with the bait used—the total stealings may amount to a good many thousand dollars and the creditors have no redress unless they can get positive proof of fraud—which is a most difficult matter. And as they can't squeeze water out of a dry sponge and few of them would pursue the criminals merely for vengeance sake, with no hope of getting back their property or its value, the rogues escape, probably only to start up again under some different name and do the trick over again.

The basis of success in these nefarious operations is the lack of confidence with which many shippers regard the commission trade. There are many who look upon an unusually tempting offer as merely the sign of honesty and integrity; they seem to think the commission man gets too much out of their goods and when a man comes along who says he will pay top prices "no commission" the country shipper seems to say to himself "here at last is an honest man." Then he bites the bait and gets left.

It is best to realize that service in selling goods—as in other performances—cannot be had for nothing. There are many honorable merchants ready to receive consignments of produce and obtain their full value, to whom shipments may be entrusted with the utmost confidence. When strangers come with offers to do better it is safe to suspect fraud until the most careful investigation proves the contrary.

#### Size of Carriage Horses.

A New York horse buyer recently said: A horse that is 15.2 hands high and put up right, with plenty of bone, substance and quality, is big enough to do any kind of work that a carriage horse is called on to do. In nine cases out of ten a horse of this size will outwork and outwear a horse of sixteen hands or higher. You see he isn't so likely to pound himself to pieces on the hard pavements for one thing. Then again he has better command of his legs than a tall horse has, and therefore doesn't tire so quickly. Of course large horses are required for large carriages on account of appearance. A horse no higher than 15.2 hands would look like a pony in front of some broughams and a pair of this size hooked to an opera bus seating six or eight persons would spoil the appearance of the whole equipage, no matter how handsome the horses might be. But aside from the looks of the thing, a short-legged, big-bodied, four-cornered horse of the size I have named could do the work and do it fully as well as one a full hand taller.

Wooden utensils and vessels should be first washed with hot water and then scalded with boiling water or steam. They should then be well aired, but not too much exposed to the sun, as that would cause warping or cracking.

Smartness enables a man to catch on and wisdom enables him to let go.

There is no inspiration to independence like an assured income.